

Appln No. 09/764,936
Amdt date December 13, 2005
Reply to Office action of September 14, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A fastening assembly, comprising:
a fixing element to be fastened to a substructure, said fixing element having at least one bore;

at least one screw which can be passed through said at least one bore of said fixing element, and which can be screwed into said substructure, said screw having a shaft and a head; and

at least one bushing arranged in said at least bore, through which said screw can be passed for screwing said screw into said substructure, said bushing being able to swivel in several spacial directions when seated in said bore, said bushing further comprising a seat for at least partially receiving at least a partial surface of said head of said screw,

wherein an inner surface of said bore and an outer surface of said bushing are formed to be about spherically curved, such that a region of largest diameter of said inner surface and said outer surface is situated between an upper edge and a lower edge of said bore, wherein said bushing is loss-proof pressed in in said bore, and

wherein said head of said screw and said seat of said bushing form a substantially form-locking threadless connection.

2. (Original) The fastening assembly of claim 1, wherein a symmetry axis of said bushing can be swiveled preferably over an entire azimuth angle of 360° in an angular range of 0° to at least 45° with respect to a symmetry axis of said bore.

3. (Original) The fastening assembly of claim 1, wherein said bushing is mounted directly in said bore.

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4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) The fastening assembly of claim 1, wherein said head of said screw and said seat of said bushing are formed conically to be complimentary to one another.
8. (Original) The fastening assembly of claim 1, wherein an upper edge of said seat of said bushing is rounded.
9. (Original) The fastening assembly of claim 1, wherein a periphery of said head of said screw is configured as a support surface, which in the tightened condition of said screw rests against a support surface of said bushing formed to be approximately complimentary to said support surface of said head.
10. (Original) The fastening assembly of claim 1, wherein said bushing has approximately the same height as said bore, and wherein said head of said screw has approximately the same height as said seat of said bushing.
11. (Original) The fastening element of claim 1, wherein said bushing is integrally formed of metal or of synthetic material, or comprises a metal body with said seat of said bushing then being at least partially coated with synthetic material.
12. (Original) The fastening assembly of claim 1, wherein it is used for securing a bone fracture in a human body, wherein said fixing element is a rigid plate or a rigid brace and said at least one screw is a bone screw.
13. (Original) The fastening assembly of claim 1, wherein it is used for mounting an object on a wall, wherein said fixing element is comprised in the group of a wall fixture, a

profile or the like, or for assembling furniture or the like, wherein said fixing element is comprised in the group of an armature, a hinge, an angle or the like.

14. (Withdrawn) A fastening assembly, comprising:
- a fixing element to be fastened to a substructure, said fixing element having at least one bore;
 - at least one screw which can be passed through said at least one bore of said fixing element, and which can be screwed into said substructure, said screw having a shaft and a head;
 - at least one bushing arranged in said at least one bore, through which said screw can be passed for screwing said screw into said substructure, said bushing further comprising a seat for at least partially receiving at least a partial surface of said head of said screw,
 - wherein said bushing is received to be swiveled in said bore through a bearing element, which can be fixed to said fixing element and which is arranged in said bore, and wherein in this case an inner surface of said bearing element and an outer surface of said bushing are formed to be about spherically curved, such that a region of largest diameter of said inner surface and said outer surface is situated between an upper edge and a lower edge of said bearing element, wherein said bushing is loss-proof pressed in said bearing element.

15. (Currently Amended) A fastening assembly, comprising:
- a fixing element to be fastened to a substructure, said fixing element having at least one bore;
 - at least one screw which can be passed through said at least one bore of said fixing element, and which can be screwed into said substructure, said screw having a shaft and a head; and
 - at least one bushing arranged in said at least one bore, through which said screw can be passed for screwing said screw into said substructure, said bushing being able to swivel in several spacial directions when seated in said bore, said bushing further comprising a seat for at least partially receiving at least a partial surface of said head of said screw,

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wherein the screw head is connected with the seat in a threadless press-fit manner when the screw is completely inserted, and

wherein an inner surface of said bore and an outer surface of said bushing are formed to be about spherically curved, such that a region of largest diameter of said inner surface and said outer surface is situated between an upper edge and a lower edge of said bore, wherein said bushing is loss-proof pressed in said bore.